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A SERMON

Preached by

Mr. *James Rows*,

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Sometime Miniſter at *Strevan*, in St. *GEIL*'s Kirk at *Edinburgh*, which has been commonly known by the Name of, POCKMANTY PREACHING.

BRITISH MUSEUM

JEREMIAH XXX. 17.

For I will reſtore Health to thee, and I will heal thee of thy Wounds, ſaith the LORD, *becauſe they called thee an Out-caſt, ſaying, This is* Zion, *whom no Man ſeeketh after.*

EDINBURGH,

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A SERMON Preached by Mr. JAMES ROWS, *ſometime Miniſter at* Strevan, *in St.* Geil's *Kirk at* Edinburgh, &c.

I Need not trouble you much, who is meant by *Zion* here, ye all ken it is the poor Kirk of *Scotland*; for the Kirk of *Scotland* is wounded in her *Head*, in her *Hands*, in her *Feet*, and in her *Heart*.

Firſt, In her *Head*, in the Government. *2dly*, In her *Hands*, in the Diſcipline. *3dly*, In her *Heart*, as in the Doctrine. *4thly*, In her *Feet*, as in the Worſhip.

Firſt, The Kirk of *Scotland* is woundtd in her *Head*, ſhe has gotten ſik a Claſh in her *Head*, as has gart all her Harns jaap, and her Senſes, that is, her Senſe of Seeing; for the Kirk of *Scotland* wald a ſeen als well as any *Chriſtian Kirk*, in the wide Warld, but now ſhe cannot diſtinguiſh between White and Black; for bring but *Pepery* before her, and ſhe cannot diſcern between that and the true Religion.

Secondly, She is wounded in her Hearing: The Kirk of *Scotland* cou'd a heard and diſtinguiſhed, but ſen the Organs were brought in, ſhe has grown as deaf as a Door-nail.

Thirdly, The Kirk of *Scotland* cou'd a ſmelt as well as any Kirk in the Warld, but the Kirk of *Rome* ſmelt ſo ſtrangely, that ſhe could a tald you, ſhe ſmelt of the Whore of *Babel*; but now, bring the ſtinkeneſt *Pepery* to the Kirk of *Scotland*, and it will ſmell to her as ſweet as an Apple. Now, poor Spectacle! ye have ſeen her *Hands*, and her ſare *Legs*; a woful Object, pity her, if ye will: What ſay ye to the curing of her Senſes? But ſome will tell, ſhe is in as good a Caſe as ever ſhe was: I'll tell you ſae.

Firſt,

First, The Kirk of *Scotland* ſees better than ever ſhe did before; the Kirk of *Scotland* ſaw her Miniſters in good little ſhort Cloaks, with black Velvet Necks; and their little Cloaks turned mae Sauls to God, nor ever the lang Gowns did; but ye ſhall ſee the prideful Prelates harl'd up and down the Town in Coaches, as in as mony Muck-Carts; that is a bra' Sight indeed.

Secondly, The Kirk of *Scotland* taſtes better than ever ſhe did, and how ſae? I'll tell you, a good Miniſter wald a been content of a Diſh of plain Milk and Bread, humble Meat indeed! But our Prelates now, will have a Lick of the beſt of it: So ye ſee the Kirk of *Scotland* taſtes better than ever ſhe did; and I have done with her Senſes.

Now, I'll tell you, how ſhe is wounded in her *Hands*, and that I call the Diſcipline of the Kirk. For,

First, They flightered the Kirk of *Scotland*: Ye ken well they uſe to flighter Thieves and Runnaways; the Kirk of *Scotland* was baith.

1*ſt*, She was a Runnaway, and that was the glorious Time of Reformation, when ſhe came clear away frae *Rome*, and hard did they follow her, and fain wald they been at her; but and they had gotten their Will, ſhe wald a been ſure of her Ladetties, or to ſpeak more plainly, of her Dichels, but, GOD be thanked, they did not o'ertake her.

2*dly*, The Kirk of *Scotland* is a Thief, alas! ſhe has gane to *Rome*, and has ſtown away the Traſh and Trumpery, as the Books of *Common Prayer* and *Canons*, wellawa! But, what trow ye ſhe is flighter'd with, but with a Silken Threed and a Canonical Obedience to their Ordinary, and wow but we have taken great Delight to be bound: We had once a bonny Kirk, but after they got us faſt, they made the Silken Threed a Cable Tow; with which they girded us ſo faſt, that we could not ſae much as fidge, but either we muſt run into the Danger of blind O-

bedience

bedience on the one Side, to accept of all Idolatry and ſuperſtitious Cerimonies, they impoſed on us; or, on the other Hand, to be menſworn Men: Na, the Kirk of *Scotland* is ſae wounded in her *Hands*, that thir twenty Years bygane, ſhe cou'd not make her Hummock in a cald Day; for the Kirk of *Scotland* thir twenty Years bygone, cou'd not have a Meeting in a lawful Aſſembly; and ſo I have done with her *Hands*: Now I come to tell you, how ſhe is wounded in her *Feet*, and that I call the *Worſhip* of the Kirk of *Scotland*.

The Kirk of *Scotland* was a bonny trotting Naig, but then ſhe trotted ſae hard, that never a Man durſt ride her, but the Biſhops wha after they gat on her Back, Croſs-langed her and Hapſhakled her, and when ſhe became a bonny pacing Beaſt, they took great Pleaſure to ride on her, but their Cadging her up and down from *Edinburgh* to *London*, and it may be from *Rome* too, gave her ſik a het Coat, that we have theſe twelve Months bygane been ſtirring her up and down to keep her frae founding: Yea, they made not only a Horſe, but an Aſs of the Kirk of *Scotland*; How ſae, quo ye? What mean ye by this? I'll tell you how, they made *Balaam*'s Aſs of her, ye ken well enough, *Balaam* was going an unlukie Gait, and firſt the Angel met him in a broad Way, and then the Aſs bogl'd and ſtartl'd, but *Balaam* got by the Angel, and till her, and battand her ſufficiently, that was when *Epiſcopacy* came in, then they gave the Kirk of *Scotland* her Paiks; afterward *Balaam* met the Angel in a ſtrait Gait, and then ſhe ſtartled more than before; but *Balaam* till her again, and whaked her ſoundly, that was when the five Articles of *Perth* were brought in: The third Time the Angel met *Balaam* in ſae ſtrait a Gait, that the Aſs could not win by; and then it pleaſed the LORD to open blind *Balaam*'s Eyes, and that is this happy Day's Wark: Now God has opened all our Eyes, we were

were like blind *Balaam*, ganging an unluckie Gait; and riding Poſt to *Rome*, and what was gotten behind him upon the Aſs, wat ye? I'll tell you, there was a Pockmanty; and what was in it trow you? But the Book of *Canons* and of *Common Prayer*, and the *High Commiſſion*; but as ſoon as the Aſs ſees the Angel, ſhe falls a ſlinging and a plunging, and oregangs the Pockmanty, and it hings by the String on the one Side, and aff gees blind *Balaam*, and he hings by the Hough on the other Side, and fain wald the Carle been on the Sadle again, and been content to leave his Pockmanty. But Beloved, let not the falſe Swingeour get on again, for if he get on again, he will be ſure to get on his Pockmanty alſo.

The *fourth* Wound the Kirk of *Scotland* got, was in her *Heart*, and that I tald you was the Doctrine of the Kirk of *Scotland*, and that's *Pepery* and *Arminianiſm*, which is ſae rife in our Schools and Kirks: Nay, are there not ſome of you, that are ſitting here and hears me, wha wald not a wiſht your ſelves a hundred Times to a been out of the Kirk, when ye heard the *Peltrie-ſtuff* that came frae them. Ye have heard many Times, Brethren, compared together, the Kirk and our Lord Jeſus, for he is the Head, and the Kirk is the Body, and that our Savior ere he entred the Miniſtry, he was carried by *Lucifer* (GOD ſave us) to the Wilderneſs, where he was tempted of the *Melkle De'il*, then he was rejected, and let light of by all; but as ſoon as he began to work his Miracles, he was carried up to *Jeruſalem* in Triumph, there was nothing in their Mouths then, but *Hoſannas*, *Bleſt is he that comes in the Name of the Lord*; but the next News that they heard, in they came with *Halbarts* and *Jethard Stalves* frae the High Prieſt to apprehend him: Juſt ſae is it with the poor Kirk for *Scotland*, for this Year bygane ſhe has ſitten deſolate, and in the Wilderneſs contemned, nothing cared for by Man, and now is the glorious Day,

Day, ſhe is riding in Triumph to *Jeruſalem*, now there is nothing in all Mouths but *Hoſannas*; but take heed when they come with *Swords* and *Stalves* frae the High Prieſt, that ſome do not with *Peter*, ſhaw a Pair of Heels and forſake her.

They have not only made an Aſs of the Kirk of *Scotland*, but they have betrayed her, ye ken wha betrayed our Savior, they betrayed him that were ſilent in ſae good a Cauſe, they betrayed him that accuſed him, that judged him, they betrayed him that forſook him: But where will ye find the falſe *Judas* all the while? And now I'll tell you a Tale, I dare not ſay it is true, but ye ſhall ha'e it as I ha'e it: When I was a little Boy at the School, there was a hopeful Theologue, wha is now nae ſmall Man in the Land; and being to preach the very ſame Words of *Judas*, *What will you give me, and I will betray him?* The young Man learned his Text ſae well, that he could a tald it baith in *Latin* and *Scots*, *Quid mihi dabitis, & ego tradam illum? What will you give me and I will betray him?* There was a good Man ſitting at the Foot of the Poupit, wha ſtanding up, looking in his Face, ſaid, Mary, and give you a good fat Biſhoprick, and then I am ſure ye will betray him, ſay ye ſae; Wha has betrayed the Kirk of *Scotland?* I need not tell you, but the Kirk of *Scotland* was once a *Bonnie Kirk*, and a *Bonnie Grammar School*, and well ye wat, ſhe had Skill in *Regimen & Concordantia*, and could a made a Piece of *Bonnie Latin*, and for every Thing ſhe was forced to *da Regulam*, and when ſhe offended, ſhe was ſure of *Pande Manum*: But afterwards, when ſhe went to the College, ſhe had mair Liberty. And firſt of all, ſhe began to *Rethorick*, but, inſtead of proper Speaking, ſhe learned nothing but *Hyperboles* and *Allegories*; then ſhe came into the *Logick*, and, inſtead of true *Demonſtrations*, ſhe learned nothing but *Hamonimaes* and *Captious Sylogiſms*; afterwards ſhe came to *Æthicks*,

thicks, but ſhe did not trouble her ſelf meikle with them, but ſtudied the *Politicks*, and that ſae well, that ſhe turned all Religion into *Meer flat Policy*: For *Metaphyſicks* ſhe kens they are *Ens*, and that muſt be *unum*, *verum* & *bonum*, and that all theſe Three muſt be of true Religions, but this is too high a Theme for her, wherefore ſhe ſtudied more the *Phyſicks*, and turned all into *Materia prima*, and made it ſelf capable of any Form they pleaſed to impoſe upon us.

After he had done with Sermon and Prayer, then ſtood he up to give the Bleſſing, and thereafter ſaid as follows.

I ken well enough it is not the Faſhion of this Place, to ſpeak any Thing after Prayer, but becauſe I had meikle to ſay, and one Thing dang another out of my Head, wherefore I muſt beg Leave to add a Word or twa.

AND firſt of all, I will ſpeak to you who are Members of the *College* of *Juſtice*, and why, I pray you, Will not ye ſubſcrive the Covenant? Ye will ſay to me, ye are employed by his Majeſty, in ſome ſpecial Affairs, and ye cannot, with your Honour, ſubſcrive the Covenant: This is a bra' Anſwer indeed, there is not the meaneſt Man that gathers up Twenty Merks, for the King, *per Annum*, but may have this Hole to go out at; then we ſhall have a bra' Subſcriving. Yea, yea, there is but one Man between God and you, get by that Man, and get to God.

And, in the ſecond Place, Why do not ye Noble Men ſubſcrive the Covenant? Ye will ſay, *noli me tangere*, Howſoever I'll give you a Touch, it may be, you will be put to it, ye will ſay, we muſt ride in Parliament Order, the meaneſt Man muſt go foremoſt and ſubſcrive the Covenant, and then, we will come after, that is a bra' Anſwer indeed; you have a Faſhion in the *South* Part of *Scotland*, that, when ye come

come to a Foord, the Jack-man muſt venture over firſt upon his weak weary Naig; and, if he can go and come back again, then, up comes the Laird mounted on his ſtately Steed, and over goes he, this is no Right: But we, that are *Highlanders*, have a better Faſhion; for we uſually come on Foot, and, when we come to the Foord, we are loath to leave a Man; therefore we join Oxſter to Oxſter, and Arm to Arm, and loops altogether in the Foord, and if one drown, all drowns; even ſo here, ſet your Hands to the Covenant, and if ane periſh, let all periſh.

Now, I'll ſpeak a Word to you of the Town of *Edinburgh*; and albeit, I ſee two of your chief Chairs empty, yet have at you: And why do you not ſubſcrive the Covenant? It may be, you will ſay, Ye are in Office now, ſtay till the next Year, till your Office be out, then ye will ſubſcrive the Covenant: That is a bra' Anſwer indeed, it may be, God will get his Wark done er'e the next Year. What will your Thanks be then? Get your Clerk-Regiſter, and look over your Roll; and ſee, if ever the Town of *Edinburgh* ſuffered for joining with the Kirk of *Scotland*.

Laſt of all, I have a Mind to ſpeak a Word to you who are Strangers, and then, turning himſelf about to the Place, where the Provoſt and Baillies of *Aberdeen* ſat: And what is the Reaſon ye ſubſcrive not the Covenant? It may be, ye will ſay, ye came here about your civil Affairs; and, when ye came out, ye reſolved not to ſubſcrive the Covenant; will ye take my Advice, I ſay, *Aberdeen's Men*, Will ye take your Word again, and go Home and drink the Cup of *Bon accord*, and join to the Kirk of *Scotland*, and ſubſcrive the Covenant? And ſo, farewel.

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